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Core II Lecture Shakes it Up with New Format

By Josh D. Alengo
News Writer

The director and faculty of Core II are experimenting with a new format for lectures, where the traditional fifty minutes is split: forty minutes of presentation and then it concludes with ten minutes of a question and answer session with the lecturer. The semester began with an explanation of this format in the first lecture and has been the norm since.

In order to give clarity to the intentions of the new format, Professor Mike Malone, Core II Director and Professor of Religion and Philosophy, gave his own explanation in an interview. He said, "The new format is intended to allow students to become active participants for at least part of the lecture by giving them the opportunity to ask questions or to react with comments and responses." Additionally, Malone mentions, "It may also encourage our lecturers to organize their lectures more concisely and to eliminate unnecessary or unimportant material."

Hoping the format encourages these positive changes, we still wonder—what are the actual



Above: Core II students listen as Dr. Michael Nichols answers questions over his lecture titled "The Best of All Possible Worlds" based on the Core II book *Candide* on February 3, 2015. Photo courtesy of Kylie Hill.

results of this experiment? Is it working? Malone commented that, "It's too early to tell whether it is working yet. I think we need to give it more time. I've had positive feedback from some faculty and students. I hope as the semester proceeds, students will become more comfortable asking questions and offering responses in the last ten minutes. I hope

more students will participate."

In his closing thoughts, Malone tells us that "After more time has elapsed, I will ask the students and faculty whether they think it is a valuable practice or not. I am open to suggestions about how to make the process better. I like giving students a voice and a role in the lectures."

Current Core II students

were asked to comment on their reactions to the new format. Nathaniel Abney, a freshman Music Education major, is currently taking Core II. He says, "It's interesting. It's a big switch from Core I, but I'm not sure it's been long enough for me to know if I like it yet." When asked if it has been helping him better understand the lectures he commented, "Yes, with Core I there was a lot of times where the lecture felt irrelevant. This way, I feel like I can ask a question at the end if I am unsure how it connects to our reading." Maggie Hunter, a freshman English major in Core II, likes the new format and commented that "It's very helpful if you don't understand, and even if you do, I think it helps you comprehend it better. It has been beneficial for me for sure."

There are very good intentions behind this experiment, and it's doubtful any positive results will go unappreciated. If it sees enough success, the format could be seen in Core lectures of all levels. So be sure to supply constructive feedback and, above all, participate in Core.

SJC Students Featured by Tippecanoe Arts Federation

By Ana Lara
News Writer

The Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) for the fourth time selected Saint Joseph's College's Department of Art to be featured in their show. This year's exhibit, "RESET: A New Generation," celebrates the changes that our department has been making, including the evolution of our very own art faculty. The exhibit was held at the Wells Community Cultural Center in Lafayette, Indiana. The exhibition began on January 9, 2015 and will continue to February 13, 2015. It features artwork by SJC Art students and faculty.

Saint Joseph's Associate Professor, Bonnie Zimmer, submitted ten representative pieces of artwork each from students and staff, which were reviewed and then chosen by a panel of professional artists. Faculty who submitted art included Professor Zimmer, Professor Corey Crum who teaches drawing, painting, and ceramics, Instructor Brienne Hooke, a professional photographer, and Instructor of Glass and Mosaics David Herriott. Also featured in the show was new faculty member Joshua Smith – professional graphic designer. All five professors are featured in the exhibit along with 23 of



The exhibit "RESET: A New Generation" That features Saint Joseph's College faculty and students in Lafayette, Indiana. Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Facebook.

students. Zimmer commented, "This exhibition is an important addition to our program. This show will not only allow us to share art, concepts, processes and progress with the greater community, but also continue to build the close relationships we have with our students by allowing them to exhibit alongside us. Yes, we are their professors, but we are also artists working with the same challenges and decisions that we ask our students to explore."

Professors Zimmer and Crum picked out art students, Joel Arreguin, Amanda Duncan, Nicole Thomsen, Ashley Brinkman, Victoria Berenda, Megan Hennessy, Pam Hueser, Patience Keen, Anthony Majewski, Katie Davisson, Payton Kellenburger, Leann

Kooi, Shalom Paulino, Sarah Beetz, William Decker, Michael Steinhour, Gloria Leonard, Nicholas Black, Carla Luzadder, Ashley Pallo, Ryan Postma, Samantha Nirva, and Joe Haberlin.

Nicole Thomsen is an Art and English major. She said, "Professor Crum inspired me to paint, before him I wasn't as interested in painting and it was a great feeling to have my art work featured in the show." Ashley Brinkman is the Art Club president and is also an Art Major. She said, "I loved it! I was really excited to be a part of a show off campus." The exhibit features amazing artwork from our fellow peers and professors. Support them by heading down to the Wells Community Cultural Center in Lafayette!



Professor Bonnie Zimmer, Head of the Art Department, standing next to one of her sculptures featured at "RESET: A New Generation." Her sculpture is entitled *Vessel for Dad*. Bonnie, along with 23 students and five Art Department faculty members are featured in the show. The show runs through February 13, 2015. Photo Courtesy of Ardent Papers Photography.

Winterim Adventures: Students Visit China

By Casey Snow
News Writer

For some of the students at the Joe, winter break meant spending time with family and relaxing at home after a long semester of classes. For others, it was spent at school for sports and clubs for a few extra weeks of extracurricular fun. Yet, for some students winter break was spent on an adventure exploring China during this year's winterim trip.

April Toadvine, an English professor at SJC, along with five students left for China on December 27. They flew from Chicago and arrived in Beijing on December 28. Throughout their trip, they were able to go to the Forbidden City built in 1406, and the Palace Museum in Beijing, which Prof. Toadvine said was absolutely gorgeous. They also got to see and climb the Great Wall. From Beijing, the group went to Shanghai, where they explored the city and the markets. "We also got to go to Wuxi," Prof. Toadvine said, "where you

can see the largest Buddha in the country. You can see it from miles away!" The students also got to spend a day at UIC – the United International College, where they got to talk with other college students in Zhuhai.

Aside from all the different Chinese cities, students got to try different types of food. Kim McClaghry, freshman at SJC majoring in sociology, said "while I'm not a big fan of duck, it is very popular in China. Anyone who likes duck should definitely go." Eating in China meant lots of fish, duck, and even chicken feet. "I thought the chicken feet were okay, because they actually tasted like chicken. But I really did like the oysters," said Kim.

The group also got to try out different things like Chinese medicine, based on traditions that have developed for over 2,000 years. Students were fascinated with the exotic cars, busy streets, and of course, the nature walks. One part of China that most don't necessarily think about is the nature and places that are not

busy and crowded with people. "People really enjoyed the parks, with waterfalls and nature walks – it was just amazing," said Prof. Toadvine. One of the places they visited, Hangzhou, is known as one of the happiest cities. This was Kim's favorite part of the trip. "they said it was the happiest city, and I really understood that when I was there. It was gorgeous, with lots of nature." While most think of China as an urban city with lots of people, these students got to experience the more natural side of it.

The students ended their trip in Hong Kong and flew home on January 9. There was a flight delay on the way back, but after a successful (and exhausting) trip, the students did not seem to mind. Prof. Toadvine informed that the weather was great, the trip was eventful, and it was overall a great getaway from classes, work, and life at school.

Comedy Night at Saint Joseph's College: Alumni Return for Improv Show

By Alyssa Cook
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, January 31, Saint Joseph's College alumni returned for a night of improv comedy organized by Professor John Rahe and the Columbian Players. Fourteen in all participated in the show, which turned out to be a great success.

The Alumni Improv show began as an idea, which was shared on Facebook and started to gain momentum as more and more alumni expressed interest in it. "It was all on Facebook," alum Jennifer Ledford '10 said. "That's how it all started." Professor of Theater, John Rahe had been looking for something "theatrical"

to do and worked with the alumni performers and the Columbian Players to put the show together. The show featured twelve alumni: Marcie Larson '07, Sean Warren '11, Mike Sosnowski '14, Erik Benson '14, Tanner Brunson '14, Andrew Duditch '11, Mike Koscielnny '10, Jennifer Ledford '10, Jessica Harris '06, Andrew Klimczak '93, Jon Nichols '93, and Brian Guerre '95, and two current students: AJ Frigo '15 and Marten Moreno '17.

Alumni returning to SJC came from all walks of life and rejoined their fellow pumas onstage in a one-night show that was a great success. A few returned from professional careers in improv comedy. When

asked about the experience of performing alongside professionals, sophomore Marten Moreno described it as "invigorating."

"I was very nervous before the show," Moreno said, "because we have a few that are professionals and I was hoping to just make it on par with them. It truly was an honor. I feel great."

Following Saturday night's success, Professor of Theater, John Rahe was very positive when asked about the possibility of doing more alumni improv shows in the future: "Probably maybe once a year. It was something that worked out really well..."

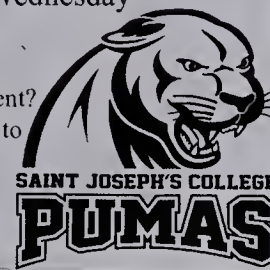


Above: (L to R) Marcie Larson '07, Sean Warren '11, Mike Sosnowski '14, Erik Benson '14, Tanner Brunson '14, Andrew Duditch '11, Mike Koscielnny '10, Jennifer Ledford '10, AJ Frigo '15, Marten Moreno '17, Andrew Klimczak '93, Jon Nichols '93, and Brian Guerre '95
Photo courtesy of Professor John Rahe

Upcoming Puma Events!

February 7 - Fellow's Appreciation Event
February 7 - Wall of Honor Team Induction
February 7 - Basketball Banquet
February 9-13 - Love Yourself Week
February 14 - Science Olympiad
February 18 - Ash Wednesday

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Kylie Hill at
khwl0051@saintjoe.edu or
Alyssa Cook at
acwl0024@saintjoe.edu!



Prof. April Toadvine and SJC students in China
Photo courtesy of Dr. April Toadvine

Meet the Staff: Professor Michael Steinhour

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

Many people have always wondered, do Professors do anything other than teach? Professor of Sociology, Michael Steinhour, surely does. Professor Steinhour loves to write, take art classes while not teaching, is an avid movie watcher, gamer and a collector of unique coffee mugs. He has traveled all over Europe, ranging from the Czech Republic all the way to Ireland.

Before teaching, he received his B.S. in Sociology and minors in Psychology and Women's Studies from Eastern Illinois University, an M. A. in Sociology from Purdue University and his Ph.D. in Sociology and a minor in Gerontology from Purdue University as well. At Saint Joseph's College, Professor Steinhour teaches a variety of classes. This year he teaches; Core 8, Introductory Sociology, Social Problems, Race and Ethnic Relations, Social Theory, The Social Self, The Sustainable Community, Social Stratification, The Sociology of Education, and Research Methods.

This year as well, Professor Steinhour is planning a trip with a group of students this May to Amsterdam and Paris. In addition to that, he is the advisor of two different clubs. On the subject of a favorite class, he said, "I don't have a favorite class." He went on to say that any class can be his favorite, if there are eager and active students who want to be there and want to learn something. When speaking of the Core



Professor of Sociology, Dr. Michael Steinhour
Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Facebook

program, the aspect Professor Steinhour likes best is many faculty teach outside their main area of expertise. He says, "This keeps us growing as scholars and learning along with the students. Also teaching in Core gives us a chance to interact with students whom we may not have met otherwise." To any students interested in taking any of his classes, his advice is, "Any student who wishes to take a course of mine should come with an open mind. Also showing up to class and participating by asking questions and offering opinions are trademarks of successful students." I'm sure many Professors here will echo his views! When asked why he came to Saint Joseph's College, he says he was initially interested because of the size. He also mentions that getting to know his students is much more enjoyable than having 400+ students in a lecture. He goes on to mention, "Since I have made Saint Joe my home, I have to say that some of the friendliest people I've ever met work and attend school here. I feel very welcome here."

Disney’s Latina Princess

By Kertney Brozyna
Opinions Writer

Disney is at it again! To add on to their ever-growing list of diverse princesses, Disney is in the process of creating a new Latina princess for Disney Junior. The launch of the new TV series, Elena of Avalor, will be in 2016. The already aired show of Sophia the First will be introducing the new princess. Like any other Disney princess, the parents, of course, are not in the picture. Princess Elena bravely tries to save her little sister and grandparents from the evil sorceress. She succeeds but gets trapped in an amulet that Sophia from Sophia the First wears. This is where Princess Elena comes in.

The 16-year-old princess is very similar to other princesses. To be quite honest, she looks pretty close to Jasmine’s twin. It is absolutely wonderful that Disney is taking such care as to make more diverse characters to their collection. Disney is what every child should grow up on. If we want our kids watching these movies and TV shows, we should be showing our children other cultures. If we are looking to change racist views and commentary, we

need to start small. Kids growing up watching and looking up to these role models will start a new generation. Hopefully these new princesses will help kids realize, finally, that color and ethnicity do not define a person. With the help of their parents, the kids might not even recognize a color difference one day. I hope I can live to see the day that people of other ethnicities are not discriminated against in America. The United States is the land of the free, and we should not make living here bondage for certain races. We need to fully support and uplift everything people are doing to try to get rid of this image that one race is superior to another. Great job, Disney, for trying to reach not only children from ages two to seven but also their families.



Disney’s new Latina princess will be appearing on Sophia the First
Photo courtesy of Google Images

Vaccinate Your Children

By Steven Sewell
Opinions Writer

Measles, the extremely infectious airborne disease widely eradicated in America during the 20th century, has recently spread through eight states in a vicious comeback. The current outbreak can be linked back to an outbreak at Disneyland, California, where at least 67 people were infected. The measles vaccine protects over 95% of people, so why are so many people getting infected?

More than 8% of young children go unvaccinated against measles in the United States, and in some states (such as Colorado), nearly 1 in 5 children go unvaccinated. Most of these children don’t have valid medical reasons to go unvaccinated; the biggest reason why these children don’t receive the measles vaccine is ignorant parents, who have the opportunity to take advantage of imbecilic laws. Most states allow for parents to opt their schoolchildren out of vaccines for either religious, philosophical, or personal beliefs. Children often go unvaccinated because their parents believe vaccines cause disease and illness.

Anti-vaccination advocates do not understand the science behind vaccinations, and lash out with blind ignorance. Anti-vaccination advocating parents many times fail to understand the difference between peer-

reviewed research and enchanting blog posts that contain anecdotal evidence, leaving developmental disorders such as autism to be blamed on vaccinations and their ingredients, despite numerous studies showing absolutely no correlation. Celebrities such as Jenny McCarthy and Michelle Bachmann use their fame to push pseudo scientific agendas that increase their public recognition. And it’s not just a left-right politics issue, either. HBO talk show host Bill Maher has shamelessly made his views clear on the influenza vaccine and western medicine in general.

The anti-vaccination movement is a disgusting trend. It epitomizes America’s ignorance of modern day medicine, and gives the fear mongering media a platform to latch itself to. I advise calling out anti-vaxxers before they make the mistake of not vaccinating their children due to false information or blatant lies.



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

By Meghan Hennessey
Opinions Writer

Here I am, spending another Friday night alone in my dorm room, watching season 7 of The Office while painting my nails and eating chili cheese Fritos. Occasionally I will cruise through my social media feed, catching up on the exciting adventures of everyone else. Some are at the movies, some are out partying their pants off (sometimes literally), and others are hanging out in hoards, traveling as a pack on their next great excursion. Exciting. Then there’s me huddled in my room.

My oldest sister, Allison, texts me throughout the week working feverishly to convince me to come down to Purdue for a frat party. I make up semi-believable excuses each time. “Ah, sorry I’ve got loads of homework.” Or “I’ve already got plans.” She replies with “Seriously Meghan, you’re so boring. What do you ever do?” I’m just not a social person. I don’t like continuously being around other people. Despite what everyone else seems to think, I don’t think that it’s a bad thing to be an introvert.

People say to me, “Oh, you need to get out more and experience college life.” I am an actual college student. Doesn’t that mean I am living a “college life”? And doesn’t that mean that I am experiencing it? Just because I don’t enjoy going out every weekend and hanging out all the time does not mean that I am not experiencing the “college life.” I don’t have 250 friends, and I don’t have a constant desire to be

Not a Social Butterfly

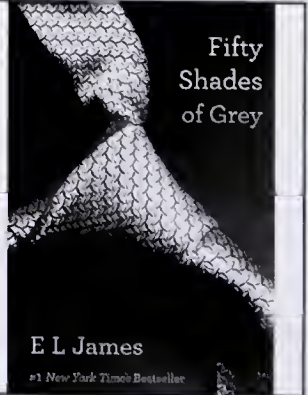
around them. I do, however, have a group of really close friends. When I do decide to be social, I go out with them and do things that I actually enjoy. Often times I find that at the end of the day I just need to chill. I’m mentally and physically tired. Going out and being social will just make me more tired. In many cases societal pressures will just force me to be someone I’m not in order to fit in at a party or get together. So what’s wrong with staying in just enjoyed being me? Being an introvert comes with tons of stereotypes. I’m not a big participant during class. Some people see this as me not having thoughts or opinions. That’s not true. I have many thoughts and opinions I just make a conscious decision not to speak up. People have told me before that introverts cannot be successful in the real world because they lack social skills. One of my former friends once told me that I won’t go far in life because “I’m not social, and I don’t talk to people.” While I am only a freshman in college, I know that that’s not true. I have successfully interviewed for both jobs and scholarships. I am completely capable of social interaction. Just because I don’t enjoy being around people constantly does not mean I am boring, friendless, or unsuccessful. Being an introvert is not a bad thing and society needs to accept that not everyone is a social butterfly.

Fifty Shades

By: Johna Bottorff
Opinions Writer

We all have heard of the phenomenal trilogy *50 Shades of Grey*. Well, I have recently started the series, and I have immediately fallen in love with it. I was skeptical at first because of all the negative talk about the book. When I saw the trailer for the movie, I was immediately intrigued. I decided to read the book for myself to see what all of the fuss was about. Now that have finished the first book, I can say that I would highly recommend this book to anyone.

It wasn’t until I had a conversation with one of my friends that I decided I needed to defend this book. People say it promotes abusive relationships and the BDSM in the book is not how it’s done in real life.



First off let me say that this book does not promote abusive relationships. Both characters in the book are consenting adults. The main character, Anastasia, wants to be with Christian, the male lead. Christian tells her to stay away, but she doesn’t, so therefore, she is consenting. Also in the book there is a contract that Anastasia has to sign that basically says she agrees to the terms and conditions.

Also, people just assume that this book is just all about sex, and it’s not. There is an actual storyline and character development, and it leaves you wanting to read more. It tugs at your heart strings more than you would think. It really bothered me that people who have never read this book are making all of these assumptions about it. All of their opinions are other people’s opinions. People say they won’t go and see the movie because of what it is supposedly supporting. But I will pay \$12.50 at the door to go and see this movie. So, before you decide to judge this book by what other people say, read it for yourself and then form an opinion.

The movie for *Fifty Shades* is set to premier on Saturday, Feb 14th
Photo courtesy of Google Images

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Sonic Highways

By: Christina O'Connell
Features Writer

As soon as Monday November 10, 2014 arrived, I was super excited to finally own the Foo Fighters brand new album *Sonic Highways*. I had fallen in love with their two singles, “Something From Nothing” and “Feast and the Famine”; constantly playing them in anticipation for the Foo Fighter’s new creation. *Sonic Highways* didn’t disappoint. I love this album, from the fast, heavy classic rock to the calm and cool rifts like “In the Clear,” I can’t get enough. I was a little surprised at some songs because they felt different than what the Foo Fighters usually do. “I Am A River,” is a sound that I have never really heard from this band. It’s beautiful and has become one of my favorites off the album. The Foo’s have added some violins to the song to make it even more powerful. Coming from an alternative hard rock group, it’s a unique twist, and I love it.

Every song I find is very poetic, and you can feel the emotion pouring out. This is one of the reasons the Foo Fighters are my favorite band. The lyrics and instruments tell stories and lead vocalist Dave Grohl, is raw and soulful in conveying every story. I definitely think that the band wanted to try something fresh and new with their eighth album. I commend them for it because it seems that when

musicians try to change things up a bit, the fans get very upset. I like when a group does this because it shows how much they appreciate music and the versatility of it. The Foo Fighters are an example of this in *Sonic Highways*. “Congregation” and “What do I Do/ God As my Witness,” are different and new to what they have done on past albums. When I listen to them, I hear self awareness and finally finding your way when you have been lost for so long. Every song follows each other, like chapters, and when one of the chapters ends, another begins with a new challenge. I think that “I Am A River,” is finally becoming who you want to be and overcoming every challenge.

If you are a true Foo Fighters fan, this album I think will be a new experience for you and you’ll appreciate it. This album has given me the chance to hear a different side of the Foo Fighters, and it has reminded me of why they are my reigning favorite band. If you are new to the Foo Fighters and the rock genre, I highly suggest checking them out. These guys are amazing, talented, and have a lot of history. I might be a bit bias, but I absolutely give *Sonic Highways* five stars.

Divergent

By: Vivian Myers
Features Writer

Veronica Roth’s *Divergent* was, in my eyes, a very good Young Adult Fiction story. Like every other genre, there are aspects or milestones that are supposed to be hit. I do believe that, in a sense, there are different levels of Young Adult Fiction, such as a level that my advanced twelve year old sister can read and a level for the sixteen and up readers. In the lower level, I would say that things like adventure, magic, relatability, and maybe a scene where the main characters love interest says something sweet or they hold hands would be the best line of milestone guidelines. But in a higher level, you would expect to see violent and intricate plots, intimate scenes, and extremely detailed and thought out writing.

To be completely honest, I liked reading *Divergent*. It was a fun and fast read that kept me interested. But on the other side, I found it to be very simplistic. Maybe Veronica Roth wanted *Divergent* to be written as simply as it was so that everyone was able to read it. Or maybe Veronica Roth just has a simple writing style. Either way, I think one way *Divergent* could have been made to be a better book all around would be for the story to be written less simplistically. If she had written more complexly, there would be a different level not only to the writing

’style in general but also to the story’s effectiveness.

At times, I thought that Roth had it all planned out. She was keeping information from the reader, and there was some kind of action or conflict going on. And then I’d turn the page just to be disappointed. I believe what really threw me off was that the relationship between Tris, the main character, and Four, the love interest, grew so fast. For example, on page seven it felt like, “did he smile at me?” and then on to page nine, “I’m going to protect my boyfriend’s honor!” This was too fast, which made it unrealistic.

Maybe it’s just me, but when I read *Divergent*, I felt like the book had its own fast pace. It had enough action with the training scenes, sneaking around, leaving the compound, and the ending invasion that most people would say it had a fast pacc built in. Roth’s writing style also gave way for the speed to possibly overpower the story.

In other words, the book was fast paced and sloppy. *Divergent* was publicized and made out to be for a older age group. I believed that from everything I’d seen it was definitely a sixteen-seventeen year olds book. Unfortunately, with Veronica Roth’s minor downfalls, I do believe that my twelve year old sister would enjoy this

Sanderson & Steelheart

by Joe Cain
Features Writer

The young adult fiction genre gets a lot of flak these days. A lot of that flak is, in all honesty, well earned. Though YA has brought millions of young people (especially young women) into reading, much of the genre is buried beneath clichés and poorly executed love triangles.

To audiences who haven’t read much in the way of sci-fi and fantasy, these worlds are fantastical and fresh, full of new ideas and concepts they’ve never seen before.

To older audiences, however, these worlds brings absolutely nothing new to the table, retreading the clichés and plot points of dozens and dozens of novels from the last several decades.

Twilight is a poorly executed, neutered version of the lurid, paranormal romances made popular by Anne Rice.

The Hunger Games, though it has a strong lead character, is set in a vague dystopia whose pieces are little more than heavy handed metaphors for class warfare and the stupidity of reality television. It’s 1984 for tweens.

Enter Brandon Sanderson.

Over the last couple years, Mr. Sanderson has established himself as the emerging king of the fantasy genre, cementing his fan-base with his mind boggling imagination and grasp of scif-fi fantasy concepts. His touch is one the YA genre could sorely use.

In *Steelheart*, the first in the Reckoners trilogy, Sanderson tackles the biggest pop culture obsession of the moment; superheroes. Well, sort of...

Our story starts somewhere in the near future, when something called Calamity, a red, shining something appears above the earth. As is usual in this kind of story, people all over the planet start developing super powers. The people dub them Epics, and for a time, they believe that comic book stories have bled into the real world.

However, these powers have a catch.

Everyone who gets them turns evil. Something about the power literally corrupts them, and before

long the most powerful epics, wielding god-like power, start carving up the world into territories and sovereign kingdoms, with the lesser powered epics as their agents and the non-powered populace as their slaves or living targets.

Chicago was conquered by Steelheart, an epic who is basically Superman if he were cold blooded sociopath with no regard for human life and had a wicked streak of megalomania.

On that day, he transformed most of the city into solid steel, and, though no one knows how or why, was injured.

Only one witness survived, David, our story’s hero.

David lost his father to Steelheart, and, having witnessed the invincible being who murdered him being wounded, has dedicated the last ten years of his life to two things, studying epics and discovering how to combat them, and finding the Reckoners, a group of underground resistance fighters dedicated to liberating the world from Epic control.

Like with all of Sanderson’s work, *Steelheart* is full to the brim with clever bits of world building, breathing life and texture to it’s setting and in universe mechanics.

The conquered city of Newcago is one of solid steel, with cold, echoing caverns carved beneath the streets for the oppressed to crawl, fearful that at any moment they may be destroyed by their tyant master. Sanderson does a fantastic job of describing what it would be like to live in such a place. The social structure, the economy of a dystopian regime crawling with powered up psychos, what it’s like to live in a city made entirely of metal, all that’s described in enough detail to bring the world to life, but hold back just enough to focus on the story at hand.

In that same light, there’s the superpowers, and how they work.

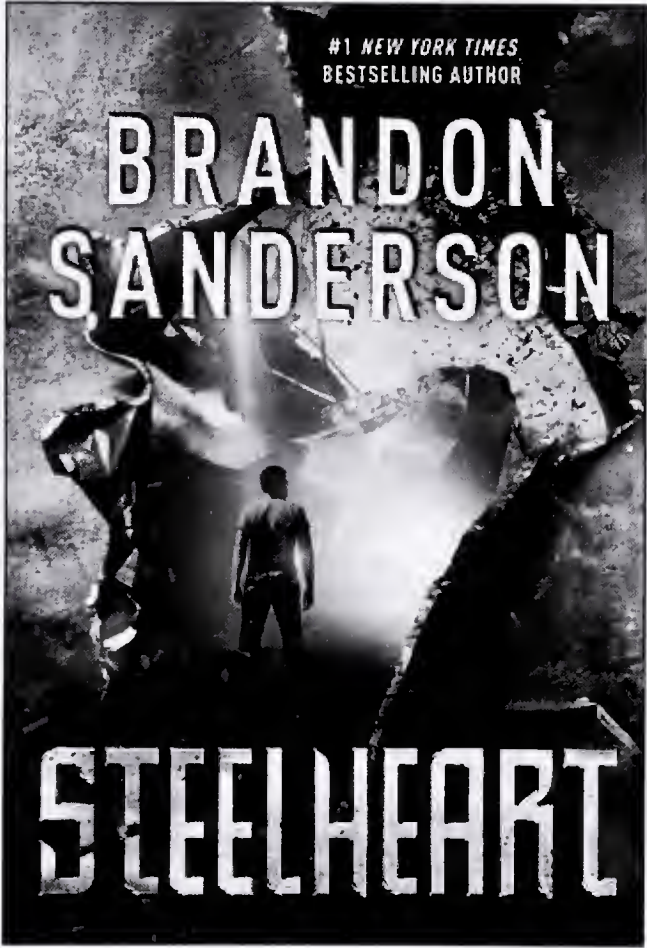
Those familiar with Sanderson’s work may know him as “the magic guy”, whose become famous for his intricately designed systems of magic, with well defined sources, costs, and benefits of their use.

Seeing as *Steelheart* is aimed at a slightly younger audience than most of his works, the power system, though elaborated upon in the sequel *Firefight*, is a bit more simplistic.

In terms of science, superpowers make no sense. No amount of higher brain function or strange cosmic waves could really give someone the strength to shatter planets or control oceans with their mind.

But the book knows this, and that’s what makes it brilliant.

Each set of epic powers have very specific rules as



Above: Book art for *Steelheart*, a novel by Brian Sanderson. Image courtesy of Google Images

to what they can do. How far they can reach, what they can effect, and for how long.

Each epic also has a weakness, a situation or substance that completely negates their powers and leaves them vulnerable.

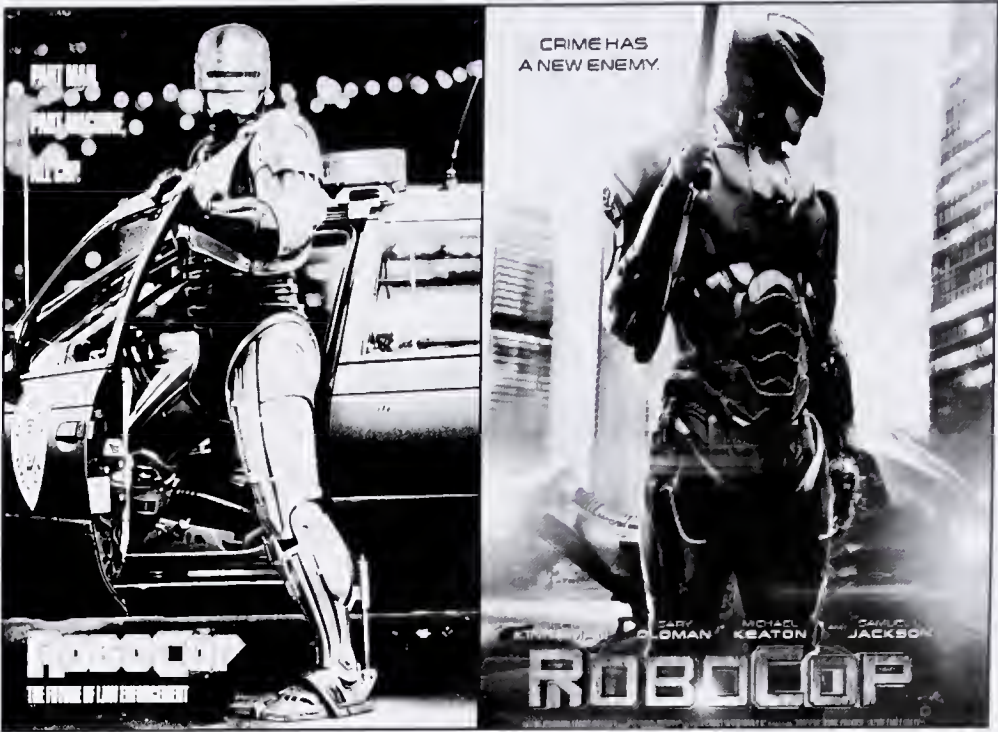
The superpowers make sense, in that they don’t make sense. They’re complete and utter nonsense, yet it’s structured nonsense with it’s own set of nonsense rules, just like in comic books.

Sanderson clearly has some great affection for the medium, as tropes from all across comic history are sprinkled in. Cute action girls, deaths of characters, climactic final battles, betrayals, everything that defines the superhero soap opera is well presented here, with more than enough originality and adrenaline fueled punch to make it stand out amidst the dregs of the YA scene.

Check it out.

By Jimmy Kile
Features Editor

Who Wore it Better: Robocop



Above Left: movie poster for the original Robocop released in 1987 starring Peter Weller as Alex Murphy/ Robocop. Photo courtesy of Google Images.
Above Right: A movie poster for the 2014 Robocop reboot starring Joel Kinnaman as Alex Murphy/ Robocop. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The most important part of any movie is a strong main character. Usually, this strong character is set in his attitude, beliefs, way he acts, etc. throughout the movie to help enforce his image. In the 2014 reboot of *Robocop*, this was not the case and is, in my opinion, one of the major factors as to why the movie was not a good movie.

There are two factors that go into making an effective robot/human hybrid: emotions and actions. In the 2014 reboot movie, these two areas were constantly in flux during the entire film and didn't create the sense of a strong main character.

The main problem behind Kinnaman's portrayal of Robocop was that his character was too human. His character did a ton of running and jumping around, both clearly human actions that are not usually thought of as something a robot might do.

The way Kinnaman's character walked was also too human. It appears that the producers just added robotic sound effects over Kinnaman's normal walking. I never felt that Kinnaman's character was a robot.

Another reason why I felt that way is because of the problem with his character's emotions.

Throughout the film, the scientists that created Robocop are constantly dealing with the problems caused by the emotions of the human part of Robocop. In the beginning, he is scared and tries to run away. His emotions prevent him from meeting the target standards the scientists want for him. Later on, after the Detroit Police criminal and investigation reports have been uploaded to his memory, Robocop has an emotional breakdown and the scientists are forced to lower his dopamine (emotion causing drug) to almost nonexistent levels, which makes Robocop function exactly as a robot. No emotion is shown

by Robocop nor do any emotions affect his judgement or hamper him from doing his job. Towards the end of the film, Robocop begins to override his programming and begins to return to the way he was before his dopamine production was lowered, yet another problem for the scientists caused by a change in Robocop's emotions.

His emotions are all over the scale during the movie, ranging from crying and heartbreak all the way to the objective intake and analysis of data and back again.

Robocop's physical appearance also changes during the 2014 movie. He starts out with a blue and black pattern which resembles the armor worn by Robocop as portrayed by Peter Weller in the original 1987 film. About two scenes later, however, Robocop is given fully black armor because the CEO of Omnicorp, the company behind the creation of Robocop, thinks it would look cooler.

Seriously? Because it looks cooler?

When the original *Robocop* hit the screens in 1987, Peter

Weller captured the essence of a half man half machine construct perfectly.

Weller's character moved like a robot. Whenever his character walked around a corner or had to move out of the way, he turned at a ninety degree angle.

His head moved in a slow, methodic fashion whenever he examined a crime scene or was assessing the situation in front of him.

The way Weller talked as Robocop played a big role in portraying himself as a robotic/human construct. His sentences were short, no longer than they had to be and each word was clipped, and he spoke with a monotone voice. His voice had the faint sense of roboticness to it even though it came from a human voice box.

Weller's armor never changed color during the movie either. It kept its blue and black pattern throughout the entire film.

Weller's Robocop only had problems with emotion once towards the end of the film. This was a perfect event in the story however as Robocop remembers

who he is and realizes the situation he is in.

His emotions do not interfere with his ability to perform his duties and they do not interfere with the story. Instead, the fit in perfectly.

The fact that Kinnaman's Robocop kept having problems with emotions got in the way of my belief in him as a robot. Instead of me getting a sense of him being "part man, part machine," as was promoted for Weller's movie, I got the sense that Kinnaman's Robocop was just a person with robotic prosthetics.

Now, there were other reasons that the 2014 *Robocop* failed to live up to expectations and the glory of the original, but I feel that Robocop himself was just too human in the new movie.

It doesn't help to have a big name actor play a side character. Samuel L. Jackson played a talk show host that had his own scenes in the movie occasionally.

People who have not seen the original *Robocop* or have grown up seeing Samuel L. Jackson

in movies are going to be more interested in an actor that they know instead of the main character that isn't well developed.

It doesn't help that too many of the other details from the original movie were changed, aside from what was already discussed about the main character.

The next biggest problem was the change of the name of the company behind the creation behind Robocop.

In the 1987 movie, Omni Consumer Products is responsible for the creation of Robocop and is able to put him on the police force because they have a contract that gives them ownership of the Detroit police. They want to cut down on crime in Detroit so they can build a megacity to replace Detroit.

In the new movie, the company behind the creation of Robocop is called Omnicorp. Omnicorp manufactures drones for warfare overseas and is trying to gain a contract for using their enforcement robots as a police force in the US. In order to convince the public this is a good idea, they create Robocop.

So not only is the company different, but its goal is different as well.

With the weak portrayal of Robocop, different company with different goal, there is one other thing that was changed that made the new movie bad.

The origin story for Robocop was changed. Instead of being brutally shot by a crime boss and his gang, Officer Alex Murphy is blown up by a car bomb.

Too much was changed in the new movie. It barely resembles the original, except by title and the fact that the main character is a killed cop reincarnated as a robotic cop.

The 2014 *Robocop* is a bad movie and is so different from the original that it does not deserve the title of *Robocop*.

By Karen Gramajo
Features Writer

It all started with a scribble. There was a boy who was in my group named Benjamin. He was the leader and we were discussing a problem in a subject. During our conversation, Benjamin scribbled something random on paper that we were writing on. He was about to erase it, but I stopped him. I took out my pencil, opened my notebook and copied my discovery. It was a foot. Very sloppily put; but I was mesmerized. Everyone looked at me funny, and I gestured for them to continue. The lad erased the scribble and continued on with our conversation. That was the day I wanted to do animation.

When elementary years started to pass, I would doodle in the bottom of my textbooks when I was bored and pretend that they were cartoons. Storylines would be brought out,

and voices of their squeaking filled my head. I would giggle at a punchline and people would look at me during quiet hour. Embarrassingly, I stared into my desk scolding myself. My mother later on discovered the textbooks and told me to stop because it was bad manners. I missed those squeaks.

Still, it did not stop me from drawing. When I grew older, old pieces of paper would become scribbles. I would close my eyes and rapidly move my hand across the paper. When I opened them, faces and bodies would appear. Nose over there, this arm is bigger than the other. One time at home, when everyone was asleep. On my top bunk, I drew six scribbles on the wall. A story would play out when I saw the hand of big bird, a rice picker, a geisha, a cynic, and a bicyclist. They were in a circle and a storyline played out. I cannot recall how it goes,

but it soothed my mind when I slipped into slumber. I didn't tell my family about it in fear of punishment. Years later, I would pull up a chair and see if they were there. The playback began, and I giggled at the punchline. The walls were painted before middle school and their shapes engraved onto the corners of the mind.

After I did homework, practice on sketching hands was of interest to me. I would pose my hands in front of my mirror, sketching everything precisely. I made it my priority to study the history of Disney, DreamWorks, Fox Studios, Ghibli, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon. The Hub, and PBS. I searched for the voice actors, creators, anyone who worked in these companies. I fell in love with their work: Lauren Faust, J.G. Quintel, Aaron Diaz, Rebecca Sugar, Alex Hirsh, and Tracy J. Butler. Animation, sketching,

storyboard making, and character design - I enjoy this so much and love everything in animation.

I started animation class this semester with a new professor. Animation class was all about using Maya 2015. It is a great program to be introduced to because it gives you a glimpse on what the career is about. Back before computers created a huge impact on animation, people with the greatest talent came and created the movements, frame by frame. Ghibli is one of the greatest examples of hand drawn animation. Hayao Miyazaki, one of the most influential animators in cinema history has hand-drawn frames created so brilliantly that if the movie is paused, it looks like a painting. Miyazaki created Japan's masterpiece and it shows the message of courage, strength, and respect. He is truly a genius and inspired me to become an animator ever since seeing it in elementary school. Now

animation involving computer programming is a different and new revolution in seeing cinema.



Anime artist Luran Faust who has worked on numerous television shows. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Track & Field Starting Off Strong

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Co-Editor

After making it home from the blizzard, the Saint Joseph's College Men's and Women's Track and Field teams are back at it for their 2015 season. This past weekend, they traveled to Grand Valley State University in Michigan for their second meet of the season. The men and women competed against three other teams, Grand Valley State University, Lewis University, and Lincoln University. The teams had a number of strong performances from both men and women, giving Coach Massoels and the team confidence as this is only the beginning of a great journey.

Top performances on the women's side come from Heather Monk, Samantha Nirva, Leanna Knight, and Danielle Perkins. Monk came and conquered in first place in shot put after reaching a mark of 43 feet and 3 inches. Knight jumped her way to fourth with a mark of 17 feet, 5.25 inches in long jump, while Nirva finished in third place in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.88 seconds. Lastly, Perkins hit a season best in the 200 meter race finishing 10th out of 25 competitors with a time of 26.7 seconds.

Looking to the men's team now, there were many impressive performances. Logan Barrett set



Pictured Logan Barrett and Brian Eurtion. Photo Courtesy of Facebook.

the tone for the distance boys as he finished first in the mile with a time of 4:13.85 with Brian Eurtion following not too far behind with a time of 4:20.72. The distance team continued to impress as Justin Hays reached a personal record in the 3000 meters with a time of 8:47.41. Malcom Demar made a run for the books this

weekend as he finished with a time of 49.33 in the 400 meters and 22.16 in the 200 meters and these times qualified him for fourth in the 200 meter and sixth for the 400 meter in school history. Lastly, CJ Eikum finished fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 44 feet, 1.5 inches and also placed fifth in the high jump

with a mark of 6 feet, 2.75 inches.

The Pumas are off to a great start as this was only their second meet for the winter season. Next weekend, the men and women will be traveling back to Michigan to Hillsdale College for a two-day meet called the Wide Track Classic where they hope to continue in their success.

Men's Basketball Struggles on Road

By Jessica Cates
Sports Co-Editor

On Thursday, January 29th, the Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team took on the Flyers of Lewis University. The Pumas shot well early in the game and connected on 11 three-point baskets throughout the game. However, in the final five minutes of the game, the Flyers took control and finished with the 88-76 win.

In the first half of the contest, the Pumas hit six of 12 three-pointers to go into the locker-room with just a 38-40 deficit. At the start of the second half, the

Pumas sharp shooting continued, leading to a 63-59 lead with 10 minutes remaining in the contest after a Ryan Rebholz three.

However, later in the game their shooting dried up. At the close of the game, Saint Joseph's College was shooting 43% from the field, while the Flyers were connecting on 57% of their attempts. With less than four minutes remaining in the contest, a Dawson Gore three brought the Pumas within 72-77 before the Flyers began to extend their lead at the free-throw line to come away with the 88-76 victory.

The Pumas had very balanced scoring for the night. Notable



Pictured Cameron Vines, Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

performances for Saint Joseph's College include Cameron Vines's 19 points, Rebholz's 14 points, Gore's 13 points, Jordan Seele's 11 points, and Nathan Tidwell's 11 points and 8 rebounds.

The following Saturday, January 31st, the Pumas traveled to the University of Wisconsin Parkside to take on the 20th ranked Rangers. The UWP Rangers were fresh off an upset of Number 1 ranked University of Indianapolis. Early in the game, the Pumas held their own against one of the top-ranked teams in the nation and they even held an 11-8 lead after a Rebholz three with 13:35 left in the first half.

However, the Pumas offense slowed thereafter and the Rangers

went on a 17-2 run over the next five minutes, giving them a 25-13 lead and contributing to a halftime lead of 44-22. The Rangers did not slow after the half and came out strong, scoring the first seven points of the half. They continued playing hard for the rest of the game and took an 82-55 victory over the Pumas. Statistical leaders for SJC include Vines, who finished with 10 points and four rebounds, Jonah Coble, who had 10 points, and Nathan Tidwell, who added 8 points of his own.

The Pumas return home to take on Maryville University on Thursday, February 5th for their final home stand of the season. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 PM.



Pictured Ryan Rebholz, Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

Upcoming Events

February 5th

Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Maryville University
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

February 6th

Men's & Women's Track & Field at Wide Track Classic in Hillsdale, MI
TBA

Softball vs. Wayne State University in Huntsville, AL
3:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Ohio Dominican University in Huntsville, AL
5:00 p.m.

February 7th

Women's & Men's Basketball vs. University of Missouri St. Louis
1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Ferris State University in Huntsville, AL
2:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Union University (Tenn.) in Huntsville, AL
4:00 p.m.

February 8th

Softball vs. West Georgia Tech in Huntsville, AL
9:00 a.m.

Softball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan College in Huntsville, AL
11:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Purdue University Calumet
1:00 p.m.

February 12th

Women's & Men's Basketball at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

February 13th

Men's & Women's Track & Field at GVSU Big Meet in Allendale, MI
TBA

February 14th

Women's & Men's Basketball at Quincy University
1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

February 15th

Men's Tennis vs. Purdue University Calumet
1:00 p.m.

Women Lose Nailbiter to UWP

By Jessica Cates
Sports Co-editor

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team took on the No. 1 Flyers of Lewis University on Thursday, January 29th. The Pumas started off strong against the top-ranked Flyers and held a lead for the majority of the first half. Saint Joseph's College forced 11 first half turnovers that helped lead to an 18-13 lead midway through the first half. The Flyers, however, went on a 19-2 run late in the first half and went into the locker room with a 32-20 lead. Coming out after the half, the Flyers did not look back and continued extending their lead through the remainder of the game. Lewis's 50 rebounds doubled the Pumas' 25 and their 27 points off of Saint Joseph's College turnovers proved to be too much for the Pumas and led to their taking an 88-51 victory. Statistical leaders for the Pumas include Lauren Davis, who scored 14 points, Kalca Parks, who finished with 11 points, and Abbey Titzer, who added eight

points and three rebounds.

The following Saturday, January 31st, the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team looked to redeem itself in the GLVC match up against the University of Wisconsin Parkside Rangers. Things did not seem to be starting off well for the Pumas when the Rangers scored the first eight points of the game. However, UWP allowed SJC back into the contest late in the first half when Laura Furrer's lay-up tied the game at 24 with less than a minute remaining in the first half. The second half of the game proved to be just as competitive as the closing minutes of the first half. The Rangers took their largest lead of the game with a 39-27 advantage with 15:18 left before the Pumas went on a 9-1 run ending with a Parks lay-up to bring Saint Joseph's College within four. The Rangers lead continued to diminish down to only one point with less than nine minutes remaining before back to back threes put them back in control with a 48-41 lead. An

11-4 run that ended with a Parks three-point play over the next five minutes allowed the Pumas to tie the game at 42 with 2:22 left on the clock. UWP split a pair of free-throws to give them back a one point edge before Parks gave the Pumas their first lead of the second half with a jumper seconds later. UWP added three free throws to make it 57-54, but it was still a one possession game with 39 seconds left. However, the Pumas fell short when Courtney Kvachkoff, who had had a very strong first half, missed a game-tying attempt that eventually led to the Rangers 59-55 victory. Notable performances for the Pumas include Kvachkoff, who finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds, Parks, who added 18 points and five rebounds, and Rolanda Curington, who added nine points off the bench.

The Pumas will return home to host Maryville University on Thursday, February 5th for their final home stand of the season. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 PM.



*Pictured Kalea Parks
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland*

Softball Preparing for Season Opener

By Tiffany Gibson
Sports Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College softball team will open their season on Friday, February 6th in Huntsville, Alabama. They are returning four seniors, Jessica Cates (P), Tiffany Gibson (OF), Megan Schwartzengraber (P), and Stephanie Winter (2B); and they hope to make another World Series appearance to end their college careers. With thirteen returning players, five freshmen, and one transfer, the team is looking solid for the start of their season.

Along with the four seniors, the Pumas have many returners who will be huge assets to the team. Juniors Morgan Akre, Kalene Davis, Myranda Eckberg, and Kylie Hirschak bring power in the batting line up. Akre and Eckberg will be playing outfield this season. Davis will be

catching, and Hirschak is a utility player.

The sophomore class also offers much talent to the team. Kenzie Anderson, Briana Wagner, and Ashley Whitaker also bring a lot of power to the lineup. Anderson and Whitaker have been battling back from injuries, but that does not stop them from performing when they are needed to. Wagner will be playing short stop this season and acting as a backup pitcher as needed.

Head Coach Diane Stephenson brought in a transfer, Haley Miller, who will be an asset to the infield this season. She also brought in catcher Emma Littrell, pitcher Jordan Schneider, and outfielder Sammie Miller in hopes to make the Pumas' lineup even stronger. Adrienne Pinks and Melanie Smith offer agility and speed to the team.

Coach Stephenson planned for

her team to train insanely in order to prepare for the 2015 softball season. This past off-season in preparation of the spring season, the softball team spent their time in the Hanson Recreation Center with their new workout regimen. The weight training program has allowed for the team to be stronger, faster, and tougher. They dedicate their mornings to practice every day, sharpening their throwing, fielding, and hitting skills. With the pre-season preparation, they plan to open the season with wins in Alabama. The 2015 season puts the Pumas in a better situation to win conference. This year, the GLVC decided to have each team play one double header, where in the past, it was two double headers played against each team on your side of the conference. Because SJC always participates in the more difficult side of the GLVC



Pictured, Stephanie Winter preparing to field a ball last season. Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland.

conference, the Pumas will only need to win two games against the tougher teams this year rather than four as they had in the past.

This season consists of four weekends of home games, the first on Saturday, March 14th, against Missouri S&T.

Puma Athlete Spotlight: Gabrielle Raspopovich



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Athletics Website

By Katelyn Konow
Sports Staff Writer

Gabrielle Raspopovich is a senior from Crown Point, Indiana. She is a Physical Education major with a Secondary Education minor. She plays backrow on the volleyball team.

Do you have a favorite motivational quote?

“Your biggest opponent is the one in the mirror.”

What will you miss the most about your sport?

“I am going to miss coming into

the gym early on a game day and just sitting in the stands getting my mind right for the game ahead.”

Who is your number one fan?

“My number one fans have always been my parents. They are my biggest motivators.”

If you have kids, what sport would you want them to play?

“If I have girls, I would want them to play softball, swimming, and/or volleyball. If I had boys, I would want them to play baseball and/or football.”

What is the most challenging thing about your sport?

“Losing a tough game and having

to bounce back right away to play the next day is the most challenging thing about my sport.”

What kind of music do you listen to before a game?

“I listen to rock and screamo before a game.”

Who on your team pushes you to be better?

“Other backrow players push me to be better. We all always challenge one another.”

If you could be good at another sport what would it be and why?

“Swimming. I swam when I was younger and it is a family sport.”

If you could change one rule in your sport, what would it be and why?

“There are no rules that I feel are horrible enough to want to change.”

What's your favorite Christmas song?

“My favorite Christmas songs are “The Little Drummer Boy” and “Dominic the Donkey.”

Know an athlete that deserves the spotlight? Email their name to jcu8913@saintjoe.edu

the back page

Creative Corner

Ave Marie

By Thomas Day

For the time being.

White branches, white vines,
Twisting limbs like broken spines,
Redding spots like frozen blood,
Enamel floor on bracken mud,
Pearly puff on still top pines;
The needles as an emerald brine,
The dapper sun upon his seat,
Shines bright & clear & without heat,
Shows all as if a darkling jewel,
Creation's shining silver pool,
Filled with shadows & with light,
A winter morn is quite a sight,
Yet one must sigh, and one must say,
That all of this shall pass away.
But as it goes, one just might see,
A slight grey glimpse of eternity.

This grey is an odding, twilight thing,
With fairies air and silent wing
That in betwixt the silent shade,
Descends upon a hidden glade,
A silent pool upon a hill,
Under the leaves and limbs so still,
A frozen cloud upon the height,
Or passing through dim starlight,
That works the wonder frenzy till,
Ones mind is turning like a mill,
And mossy banks upon the brook,
Or the lines inside a battered book,
Or firelight bright inside the dark,
With sky filled high with golden spark,
Show that simply, straightly, bent,
All of life's a sacrament.

This passing of the good and grey,
Is a thing that's here to stay,
Till Time at least, upon his post,
Retires and leaves, without a boast
And the Author puts down His pen,
Fills the inkwell, checks once again,
And all is as He thought it should,
Mirrored in infinite, kingly Good,
And though men sigh upon the night,
Of beauties passing, firm and bright,
Of sweetness, glory, and honor lost,
And resistance melting like morning frost,
Comfort shall come in a peculiar way:
That all of this was child's play,
For He shall sigh (and without yawn),
The grey today will turn to dawn.

Cafuné

By Katie Davisson

Did you know there's a word for
the act of running hands through
the hair of someone you love?
It's called cafuné.

It's a Brazilian word, one of the few
that no one ever bothered to
translate to English

I wonder if they have word to describe
having the memories of running my
hands through your hair and still feeling
the way it was soft at the roots, then coarser
at the ends, even when it's not actually there.
Nothing is there...
not your hair, not even you.



Charcoal Drawing By Gloria Michelle Leonard



Ink Print By Zach Fawbush



Watercolor Painting by Nicole B. Thomsen

Sittin' with Souls

By Nicole B. Thomsen

When I can't sleep
I get up.
Get out.
Have you ever seen the moon in Indiana at three in
the morning?
Ever give those stars a chance?
There's a small cemetery,
Just off the back road.
I like to go there when I can't sleep.
I find myself sittin' with souls,
Knee deep in their silence.
Even in winters coldest bone,
the deadest of dead still need company.